Perspectives on Labour Economics for Development

Edited by Sandrine Cazes and Sher Verick

“This textbook offers a compelling and accessible overview of the main insights on labor economics in developing countries, striking an instructive balance between theories, existing evidence and implications for the policy debate.”

– Marc Muendler, Associate Professor of Economics, University of California–San Diego

“This book makes an original contribution and I recommend it highly for its lucid style and fresh perspectives. It is a must-read for all those who want to understand labour markets and the issue of employment in developing countries.”

– Alakh N. Sharma, Director, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, and Editor, Indian Journal for Labour Economics

In developing countries, labour markets play a central role in determining economic and social progress since employment status is one of the key determinants of exiting poverty and promoting inclusion. Yet the reality in most developing countries is that the labour market fails to create the jobs in the formal economy that would help individuals and their families prosper. In recognition of these challenges, governments and other stakeholders in developing countries have increasingly prioritized policies and programmes to promote decent work. However, this requires navigating a range of complex issues and debates surrounding the linkages between development processes and labour market outcomes.

This volume consists of three main thematic parts. Part I provides a broad overview of key issues, including characterizing the employment challenge in developing countries and the link between economic growth, distribution, poverty and employment. Drawing on the literature and country examples, Part II analyses the specific topics of wages, migration and education. The final section shifts to a more normative focus, addressing labour market institutions and policies, along with systematic approaches to quantifying labour markets in developing countries. Perspectives on Labour Economics for Development is an invaluable reference for policy-makers in middle- and low-income countries as well as an ideal handbook for teachers and students of economics and development.

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